

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Role of Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress and Hong Kong members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference : Position of the HKSAR Government

Introduction

At the meeting in March, Members expressed concern about media reports that the HKSAR Government had reached a “ten-point agreement” with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Liaison Office) on the role of Hong Kong members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC members). This paper sets out the HKSAR Government's position on this issue.

Position of the HKSAR Government

2. In meeting the media on 24 March, the Chief Executive (CE) made it clear that no consensus or agreement had been reached with the Liaison Office on the role of CPPCC members in the HKSAR.
3. The HKSAR Government deals with Hong Kong affairs in accordance with the Basic Law and the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. This also forms the basis of the HKSAR Government's position on the role of the Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC deputies) and CPPCC members in the HKSAR.
4. The NPC deputies and CPPCC members have in-depth knowledge and understanding of Mainland and Hong Kong affairs. The HKSAR Government attaches importance to their views on Mainland affairs relevant to Hong Kong. As a matter of fact, the CE stated clearly in the 2005 Policy Address that the NPC deputies and CPPCC members “have a better understanding of the Central Authorities and the Mainland. The HKSAR Government will forge closer ties with NPC deputies and CPPCC members so that they may better play their role”.

5. In the past few years, the HKSAR Government has put in place the following arrangements to forge closer ties with NPC deputies and CPPCC members and to listen to their views:

- (1) the CE meets with NPC deputies and CPPCC members twice a year: in February before the NPC and CPPCC sessions in Beijing and in August before formulating the Policy Address;
- (2) since mid-2006, the “Website of the Discussion Forum for NPC deputies and CPPCC members”, set up by the CE’s Office, has been made available to provide NPC deputies and CPPCC members with a readily available and convenient platform for giving advice. Upon commencement of their new term, the HKSAR Government would inform the NPC deputies and CPPCC members in writing that they could express their views through the website;
- (3) attaching importance to the consultative role of NPC deputies and CPPCC members on Mainland (including provinces and cities) affairs relevant to Hong Kong, and taking into account their views in dealing with the relevant matters.

6. With regard to reports by the media that the HKSAR Government and the Liaison Office had reached agreement on some specific arrangements, we would like to make the following clarifications:

- (1) In appointing members to advisory bodies and committees, the major consideration of the HKSAR Government is the expertise and relevant experience of the candidates, whether or not they are NPC deputies or CPPCC members is not a factor for consideration.
- (2) In awarding honours to members of the community, the major consideration of the HKSAR Government is the contribution made by the nominees to Hong Kong, whether or not they are NPC deputies or CPPCC members is not relevant.

- (3) The election of the NPC deputies and appointment of CPPCC members are matters for the Mainland authorities to address. At present, there is no established mechanism through which the HKSAR Government nominates candidates for NPC deputies and CPPCC members.
- (4) There have been views hoping that the Government would provide NPC deputies and CPPCC members with accommodation for work or organizing activities. But currently, the HKSAR Government has not made any such arrangement.

7. Some Members have requested the HKSAR Government to obtain from the Mainland authorities the documents and notes of the meeting which CPPCC members attended in Beijing. We consider that this would not be appropriate under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”.

Conclusion

8. The HKSAR Government will continue to deal with matters relating to NPC deputies and CPPCC members in accordance with the Basic Law and the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. The HKSAR Government is actively enhancing regional co-operation with the Guangdong Province and other Mainland regions, with a view to jointly opening up new room for development. As NPC deputies and CPPCC members have extensive understanding of national issues, their views on Mainland affairs relevant to Hong Kong would be helpful to the work of the HKSAR Government in this regard.

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